Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention provides a sewing machine comprising a sewing machine body provided with a cassette mount, a thread cassette having a supply of thread and detachably attached to the cassette mount, and a moving speed limiting unit limiting a moving speed of the thread cassette when the thread cassette is attached to the cassette mount, the moving speed limiting unit including a moving member capable of moving substantially integrally with the thread cassette in the course of movement of the thread cassette to a predetermined position in the cassette mount, a rotating member rotated by movement of the moving member, and a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the rotating member.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a preferred form, ~~the moving speed limiting unit includes~~ the moving member is a rack which is provided on the thread cassette so as to extend in a predetermined direction, the rotating member is a pinion which is provided on the sewing machine body so as to mesh the rack, and a rotational resistance applying unit applying rotational resistance to the pinion.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The moving speed limiting mechanism 21 will be described. Referring to FIGS. 8 to ~~12~~12E, the moving speed limiting mechanism 21 comprises the rack 120 which serves as a moving member capable of moving substantially together with the thread cassette 10 in the course of movement of the thread cassette 10 to a mounting position, a pinion 121 which serves as a rotating member rotated by movement of the rack 120 and a rotational resistance

applying member 122 (a rotational resistance applying unit). The rack 120 is mounted on the thread cassette 10 so as to extend downward. The pinion 121 is provided on the machine head 4 so as to be displaced or more specifically rocked between a meshing position where the pinion meshes the rack 120 and a retreat position where the pinion is disengaged from the rack 120. The rotational resistance applying member 122 applies rotational resistance to the pinion 121. The moving speed limiting mechanism 21 further includes a switching mechanism 123 switching the pinion 121 to the meshing position when the thread cassette 10 is attached to the cassette mount 5 and to the retreat position when the thread cassette 10 is detached from the cassette mount 5.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the thread cassette 10 is further inserted into the cassette mount 5 while the pinion 121 is in mesh engagement with the rack 120, the rack is moved downward with the driven pin 124a being guided by the parallel guiding portion 126a as shown in FIG. 11D. In other words, the pinion 121 is moved upward relative to the rack ~~121~~120. Since rotational resistance is applied to the pinion 121 by the rotational resistance applying member 122, a resisting force acts on the thread cassette 10, so that attachment of the thread cassette 10 is retarded. When the driven pin 124a reaches the upper end of the switching and guiding member 126 such that the driven pin disengages from the switching and guiding member 126, the biasing force of the leaf spring 125 rocks the pinion support plate 124 and the pinion 121 forward. The driven pin 124a once abuts against the receiving portion 120a formed on the upper end of the rack 120. Subsequently, the pinion support plate 124 is caused to stand upright so that the pinion 121 is departed from the rack 120 to be switched to the retreat position where the pinion is prevented from meshing the rack.

Please replace the Abstract with the attached substitute Abstract.